

**DRAFT Minutes of Beaver Island Telecommunication Advisory Committee Meeting
Peaine and St James Township, Beaver Island
Meeting in person and videoconference – September 16, 2021 4:30 pm at BIC Center**

Present

Kevin Boyle, Theresa McDonough, Gary Conant, Neal Green, Vicki Smith

Absent

Kitty McNamara, Wil Cwikiel

Others

Dick Mulvihill, Christian and Britton Picciolini, Craig Snyder

Meeting called to order at 4:32 pm. Motion to approve August minutes by Vicki, second by Neal, unanimous. Motion to approve agenda by Theresa, second by Gary, unanimous.

UP Link Update

Kevin has been in contact with NMU's frequency coordinator and was informed that AT&T is using the spectrum that we would need. Because of AT&T's placement – in the middle – we are unable to get the 1GB wanted unless AT&T changes or relinquishes their space. NMU will proceed with ordering the equipment but we have an obvious conflict. Kevin will reach out to AT&T for further discussion.

Fiber to the Home Plan B

Dick continues to pursue grant opportunities with focus on fiber under the lake. If the infrastructure bill passes there will be more money available. We have partnered with GLE but would like to pursue opportunities where community is the lead.

We have not heard from Jim Selby with Aspen and discuss contacting him for a proposal (with thought on fiber under the lake).

The tribal grant was submitted to NTIA. We would like to find out more info especially since the grant is Beaver Island to Northport and for cable under the lake. **Could Kitty or Wil contact them?**

Dick and Kevin will plan to call Doug this week. Anyone is welcome to be on the call.

The map attached to agenda is based on FCC data and indicates that Beaver Island has bad service but not as bad as others. The redder the area on the map is indicated how poor your service is. Because of a few customers getting higher quality service – maybe next to the DSLAM – the FCC thinks that everyone has great service.

U.P. Call Update

Dick summarizes his call to the U.P. which was a collaboration of Eastern U.P. Groups. One of the groups was the Center for Change - <https://www.c4cmi.org/> and they promote broadband. Other islands involved in the conversation too. Dick shared that Doug Dawson is working with the U.P. as well as the Great Lakes Island Alliance - <https://glalliance.org/>. It seems the other parties were most interested in how we set up our partnership.

CBRS

Brief discussion about pursuing this option with a fiber network on the island. Small service areas would be set up. The equipment is affordable. **Could Jim at Aspen prepare a proposal for CBRS on the island?**

Motion to adjourn by Theresa, Second by Gary, unanimous.

Meeting ends at 5:11 pm

Next Meeting Date: October 21, 2021 at the BIC Center, 4:30 pm.